Claims:

1) A method for management of multi-resolution digital images comprising the steps of:

   a) acquiring a plurality of digital images of different image file sizes;

   b) storing said image files on a plurality of different data storage media in inverse hierarchical order with the smallest file sizes being stored on the fastest storage media, and the largest on the slowest media;

   c) managing said storage to maintain highest effective image file density on the faster media and to facilitate faster access to selected images from said image files.

2) A method as in claim 1 wherein said step of acquiring includes acquiring a full resolution digital image, and copying said full resolution digital image in lower resolution image files for storage on said data storage media.

3) A method as in claim 2 wherein said step of acquiring includes the step of consolidating

   a) said acquired images in logical sets.

4) A method as in claim 1 wherein said digital image files are selected from a plurality of TN, PV, SCR, and FR digital images.

5) A method as in claim 2 wherein said digital image files are selected from a plurality of TN, PV, SCR, and FR digital images.

6) A method as in claim 5 wherein said management step includes the step of permitting limited customer access to lower resolution files for faster rendering while providing sufficient detail for customer selections for transmission and reproduction.

7) Method as in claim 6 which includes the steps of tracking the use of the image files, discarding the low resolution files that show a preselected level of infrequent use, and recreating low resolution files from high resolution files upon a retrieval request for the images corresponding to the remaining high resolution file images.

8) At least one computer readable media on which are stored computer-executable instructions that when executed on at least one processors, perform the method of claim 1.

9) A system for management of multi-resolution digital images comprising:

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a)   means for acquiring a plurality of digital images of varying image file sizes;

b)   means for ranking said image files by size and selectively distributing said files for storage in a plurality of different types of storage media in an inverse hierarchy, with the smaller files being grouped and stored on the fastest storage media, and the larger files being stored on the slowest media, to maintain the highest effective image density on the faster media to facilitate faster retrieval of the most commonly used image files.

10)   A system as in claim 9 wherein said acquiring means includes a developed film or print scanner and a web server that facilitates receipt of digital images supplied over the Internet, and said means for ranking and distributing said image files includes computer-readable media comprising computer-executable instructions that when executed direct at least one server to carry out the selected distribution, storage and retrieval functions.

11)   A system as in claim 10 which includes means for selectively tracking and deleting low resolution image files having a history of low usage, and recreating low resolution files from high resolution files upon a retrieval request for the images corresponding to the remaining high resolution file images.

12)   Computer-readable media comprising a computer-executable instruction set that when executed directs at least one computing device system to manage the acquisition, consolidation, routing, storage, retrieval and rendering of sets of digital image files of differing size to and from a plurality of different data storage/retrieval media in inverse hierarchical order, with the smallest image file sizes being stored on the fastest storage media, and the largest image file sizes on the slowest media to maintain a higher effective image file density on the faster storage/retrieval media and to facilitate faster access to selected images from said image files.

13)   Computer-readable media as in claim 12 wherein said managed digital image files are selected from a plurality of TN, PV, SCR, and FR digital images.

14)   Computer-readable media as in claim 13 that includes instruction sets for managing a web server to facilitate receipt of digital images and orders for reproductions on various media via the Internet.

15)   Computer-readable media as in claim 14 that includes instruction sets for managing at least one server to track the use of the image files, discard the low resolution files that show a preselected level of infrequent use, and recreate low resolution files from high

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resolution files upon a retrieval request for the images corresponding to the remaining high resolution file images.